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16 MAY 1958

The Honorable Graham A. Barden
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Barden:

By letter dated 4 April 1958 Mr. Fred G. Hussey, Chief Clerk of the Committee, requested a report from this Agency on H. R. 10381 and H. R. 10278, the Administration bill.

The need for improved educational opportunities and inducements for American youth has been a matter of great concern to me for a number of years. It has been my experience that at the present time, all too few young Americans are fully trained in linguistic skills, knowledge of foreign areas or the sciences. A proposal such as H. R. 10278, with the amendments proposed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare emphasizing the acquisition of foreign area knowledge, would strengthen the particular objectives which we feel are desirable.

The Soviets have recognized the importance of training scientists and engineers for some time. Their concentration in these fields is demonstrated by the fact that since 1954 they have been graduating annually twice as many engineers as the United States. While we do not wish necessarily to emulate the Soviet Union, I believe that greater efforts should be placed on these areas of learning in this country.

This Agency has a continuing need for persons with a high degree of training in these fields as well as in linguistic training. I am sure that there are similar requirements in other branches of the Government and in private enterprise. Such training will enable our young men and women to make a more valuable contribution to the future of their country and will give them great personal satisfaction. Language training and knowledge of other peoples are and will be of special importance to this country.

While I support the objectives of the legislation proposed in these two bills, I am not in a position to distinguish between them on the basis of the merits of the educational programs which they propose. I would defer to the judgement of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and other appropriate authorities in the field of education on these aspects of the bills.

The Bureau of the Budget has no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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